

Best Community Initiative

This award will go to an outstanding community-based initiative that benefits local residents. The initiative should be developed and led by the people it serves, acting as an inspiration to others and offering real value to the whole community.

Please use the space below to describe the initiative in detail. It is possible that we may call for additional information regarding the project. The judges will be looking for evidence of:

- Identification of the need and value of the project to the community
- Proven benefit to the community it serves
- Scope for sustaining benefits in the longer term or extension of the project

Contact Name: Larry Bannon	Contact details: 07764 280 786 Larry.bannon@nhsbt.nhs.uk
Parish/Town: Church Minshull	Project name: CM Vision Group
Project description: In April 2011, the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and Parochial Church Council met to discuss ways of combining efforts to improve inclusivity of our wider community; for the engagement of all our residents; and to develop a vision of how the community would like Church Minshull to look in the future, hence the name CM Vision Group was arrived at. From this meeting it was decided to form the CM Vision steering group. All members of the CM Vision Group are volunteers. The CM Vision Group has been set up to benefit a sufficient section of public who live in the parish of Church Minshull and to this end, has already started bring together separate factors in a cohesive group and is already reaching out to areas of the wide spread community to bring them together in coalition, to improve facilities, local services and community spirit. The CM Vision Steering group set up three sub groups to ensure that the organisation is beneficial to the community. The groups are as follows: • Community Led Plan Group (CLP) • Events Group • Paths and Environment Group	

Return by Wednesday 16th April 2014:
to

**Sylvia Batty, Cheshire Community Action, Suite G7, Ground Floor, Northwich
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Each of these groups perform different roles for the community, but outcomes are synergised with each other group to ensure that duplication of effort is being minimised.

For example, the CLP group drafted a community questionnaire about life and living in the community of Church Minshull. The questions ranged from social issues of housing and welfare to infrastructure and transport matters.

The CLP feedback has been invaluable in plotting a direction (or Vision) for the community, for example the top four concerns were:

- Traffic speed/volume
- Condition of Highways/footways/footpaths
- Poor Broadband service
- Lack of community and a focal green space

From this information the Events Group organised 7 major community events in 2013 which engendered a fabulous community spirit and in 2014 there are no less than 13 community events arranged to ensure maximum inclusivity across all age ranges.

The Paths and Environment groups has worked with the Canals and Rivers trust to ensure that new access steps to the canal, were made for our elderly and infirm residents. [The group] has also worked very closely with the Parish Council to bring major new road works to the community which has seen new initiatives, such as traffic calming measures and new road surfaces installed.

A Broadband group has been set up to work with Connecting Cheshire to bring super fast broadband to the Church Minshull community by summer 2014. Part of the work of this group will also involve setting up a hub in the village hall which will include access to residents who do not have computers, or otherwise access to the internet. There will also be 'champions' available to tutor residents on how to do certain applications, such as: spreadsheets, or shopping on-line, etc.

The ongoing work of the CM Vision group is creating direct and real benefit to our community.

Continue overleaf if necessary....500 Words Max

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